

**Remarks:**

The above amendment and these remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated September 27, 2006.

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-41 were pending in the application. Claims 1-19 were allowed. Claims 23-37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 20-22 and 38-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Clark. Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Nevertheless, in the interest of furthering the present application to issuance of a patent, and in view of the Examiner's indication that claim 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, applicant has amended claim 23 to place such claim in independent form. Claims 24-37 depend from claim 23, and thus are understood to be in allowable form. As amended, claims 21 and 22 also depend from claim 23, and thus also are understood to be in allowable form. Claims 20 and 38-41 have been cancelled without prejudice to further prosecution in this application or any other application.

**Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance**

As noted, the Examiner has allowed claims 1-19. In doing so, the Examiner paraphrased the claimed invention as part of the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. Applicant agrees with the Examiner's conclusions regarding the patentability of the allowed claims, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, applicant believes that the application is allowable

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because the prior art fails to teach or suggest the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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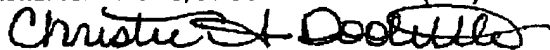
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner A. Caschera, Group Art Unit 2628, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on November 27, 2006.



Christie A. Doolittle

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